Mesoamerican Forests

The Interciencia Association, whose 14 members are the AAAS and its sister scientific organizations in the Americas, will be holding an international symposium on “Forest Conservation in Mesoamerica” at its annual meeting on 11 to 13 December. The event will be hosted by the Instituto de Ecología of Mexico and will be held at the Institute’s headquarters in Jalapa, Veracruz.

The nations of Central America and Mexico have made major strides forward in the conservation of their forest ecosystems in recent years, and the symposium will bring together participants from the region to evaluate this progress. There will also be discussions on what remains to be done and how to cooperate across international frontiers to achieve it.

The business meeting of the Association will include discussions of new Interciencia Association projects, such as its program on Environment and Sustainable Development (PROMADES) and initiatives in agriculture and forestry. For further information, contact Douglas Boucher, Executive Secretariat, Interciencia Association, AAAS, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005; telephone 202-326-6650.

Large Marine Ecosystems

Large marine ecosystems (LMEs)—the relatively narrow ocean zones that produce nearly 95% of the world’s usable marine biomass—have, in recent years, been subjected to increased stress from both natural and anthropogenic changes. This situation has aroused major international concern due to its possible negative ecologic and economic consequences.

A new AAAS book on the subject, edited by Kenneth Sherman, Lewis Alexander, and Barry Gold, deals with the possible impacts of global change on ocean productivity and provides scientific, geographic, socioeconomic, and legal arguments for managing LMEs as multinational units in order to sustain biomass yields of major coastal regions.

The book is divided into three major sections. Part I presents case histories of significant perturbations and their effects in several LMEs. Part II examines interactions of LME organisms in a variable physical environment and explains how understanding these processes can dramatically improve the management of LMEs. The final section relates ecological theory to the study of LMEs and argues for implementing global marine ecosystem management from the LME perspective.

The information presented will be valuable to scientists and students in marine-related fields, as well as conservationists, natural resource policymakers, and everyone concerned about the future of the world’s marine ecosystems. The softcover book, entitled Large Marine Ecosystems: Patterns, Processes, and Yields, is available from AAAS Books, P.O. Box 753, Waldorf MD 20604 ($31.95 for AAAS members, $39.95 to others; prepaid orders only at this price; California residents, please add applicable tax).

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Proyecto Futuro

Chicago will be the site of a new 2-year AAAS project, “Proyecto Futuro” (Project Future), funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The program will target eight public schools with a high Hispanic